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THE BEQUEST OF  
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June 26, 1930









**WILLIAM F. DRAPER**

**AN ADDRESS**





# **ADDRESS**

**DELIVERED MAY 30, 1910, BY JOHN W  
WEEKS AT THE DEDICATION  
OF THE MONUMENT TO**

**WILLIAM F. DRAPER**

**PRIVATELY PRINTED  
1910**

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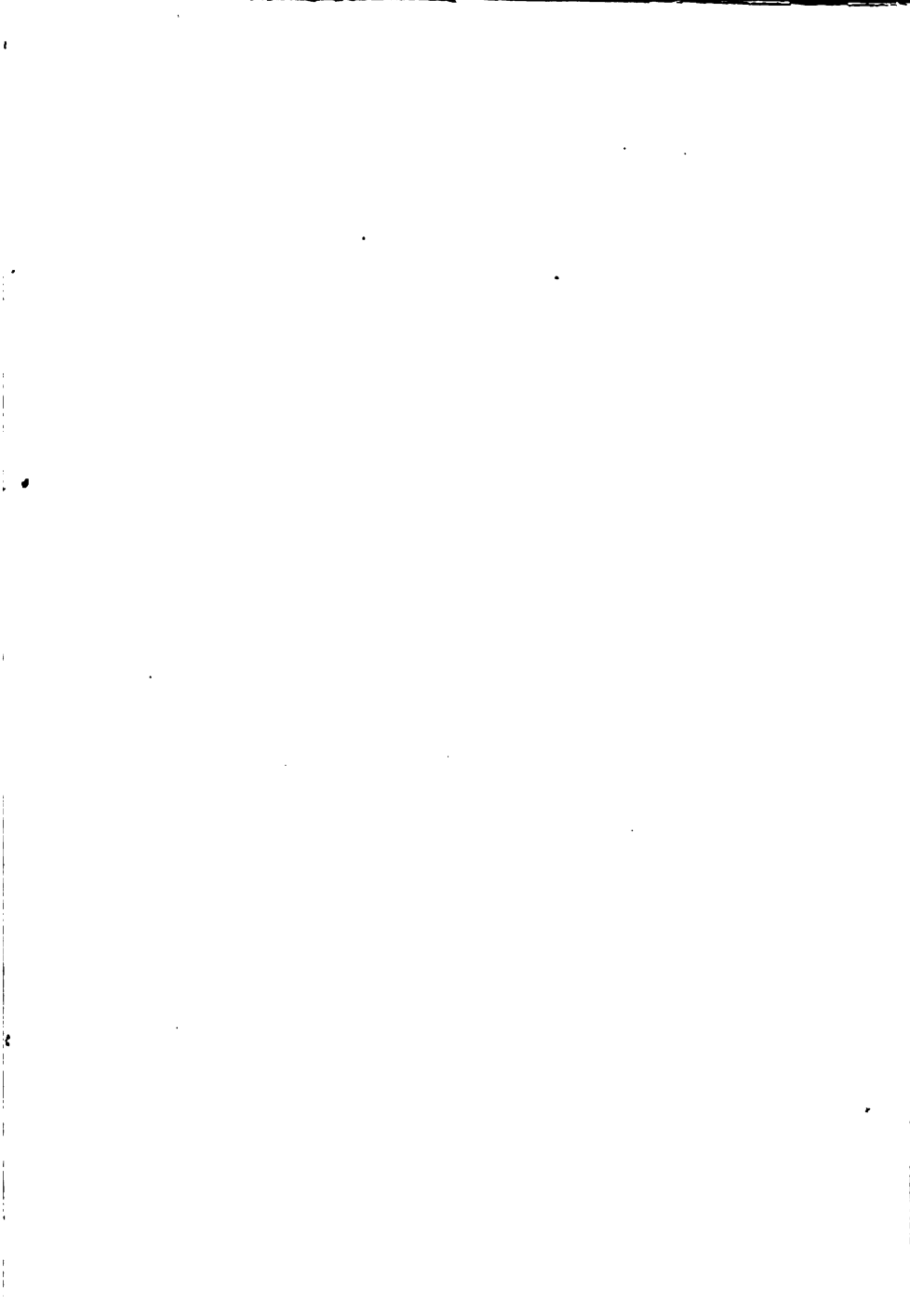
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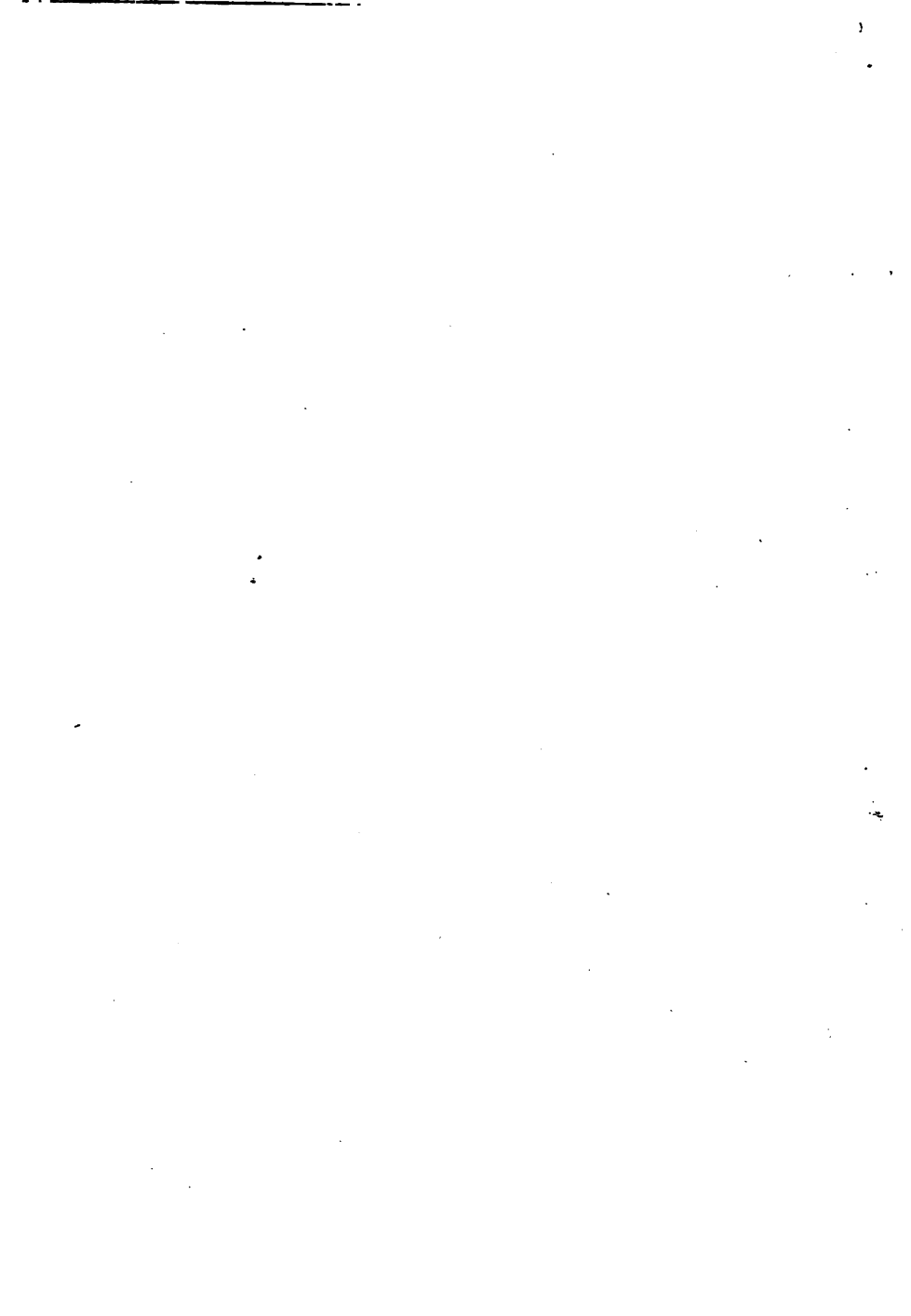
JUNE 26, 1930

THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, CAMBRIDGE, U. S. A.





**WILLIAM F. DRAPER**



**WILLIAM F. DRAPER**

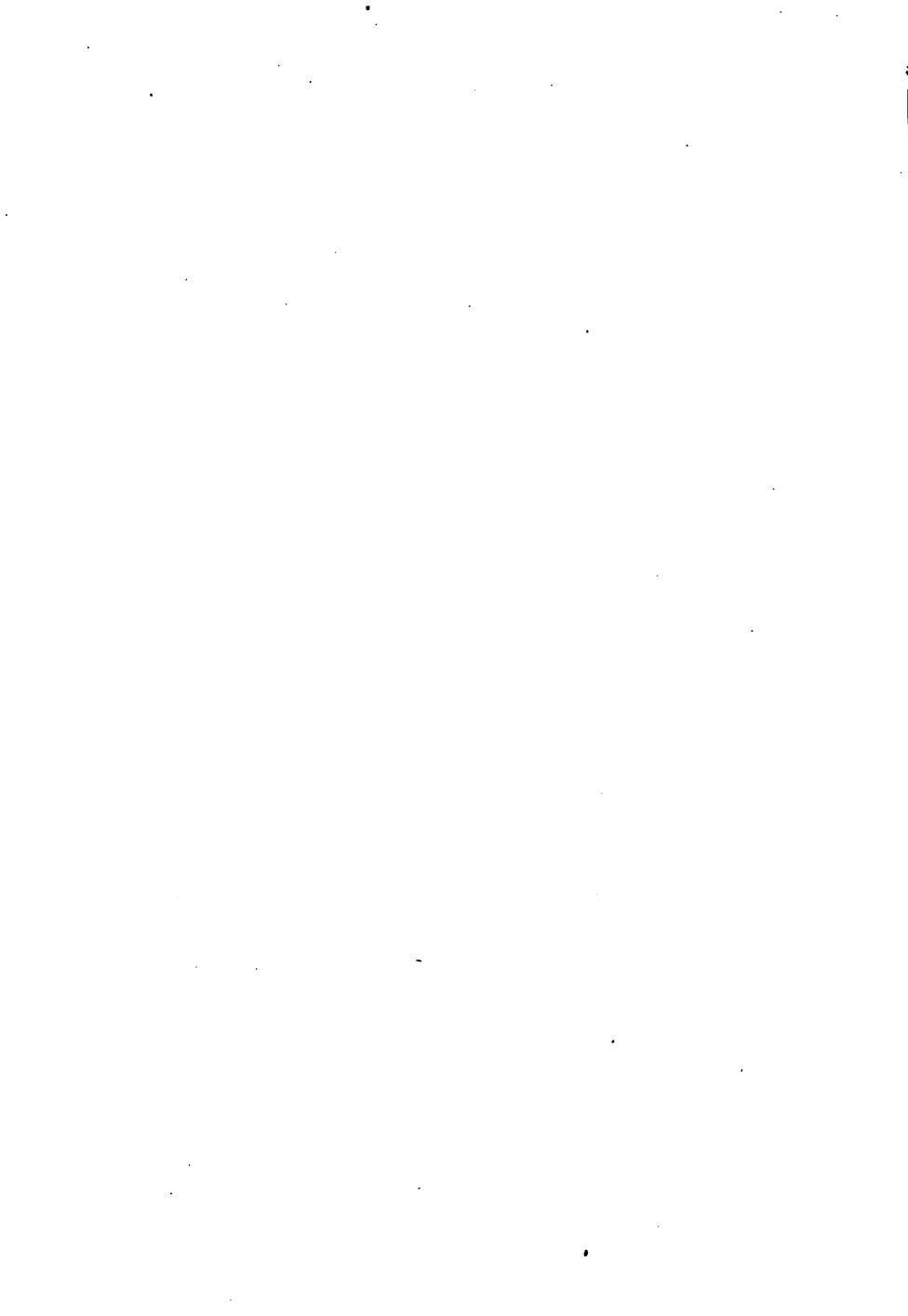




***T***HE Memorial Address which follows was delivered May 30, 1910, by Hon. John W. Weeks at the unveiling of the statue to General William F. Draper, erected by his widow on his estate at Hopedale, Mass.

The statue, which is of bronze, was unveiled by General Draper's daughter, Miss Margaret Preston Draper. It is the work of Courtenay Pollock, the English sculptor.

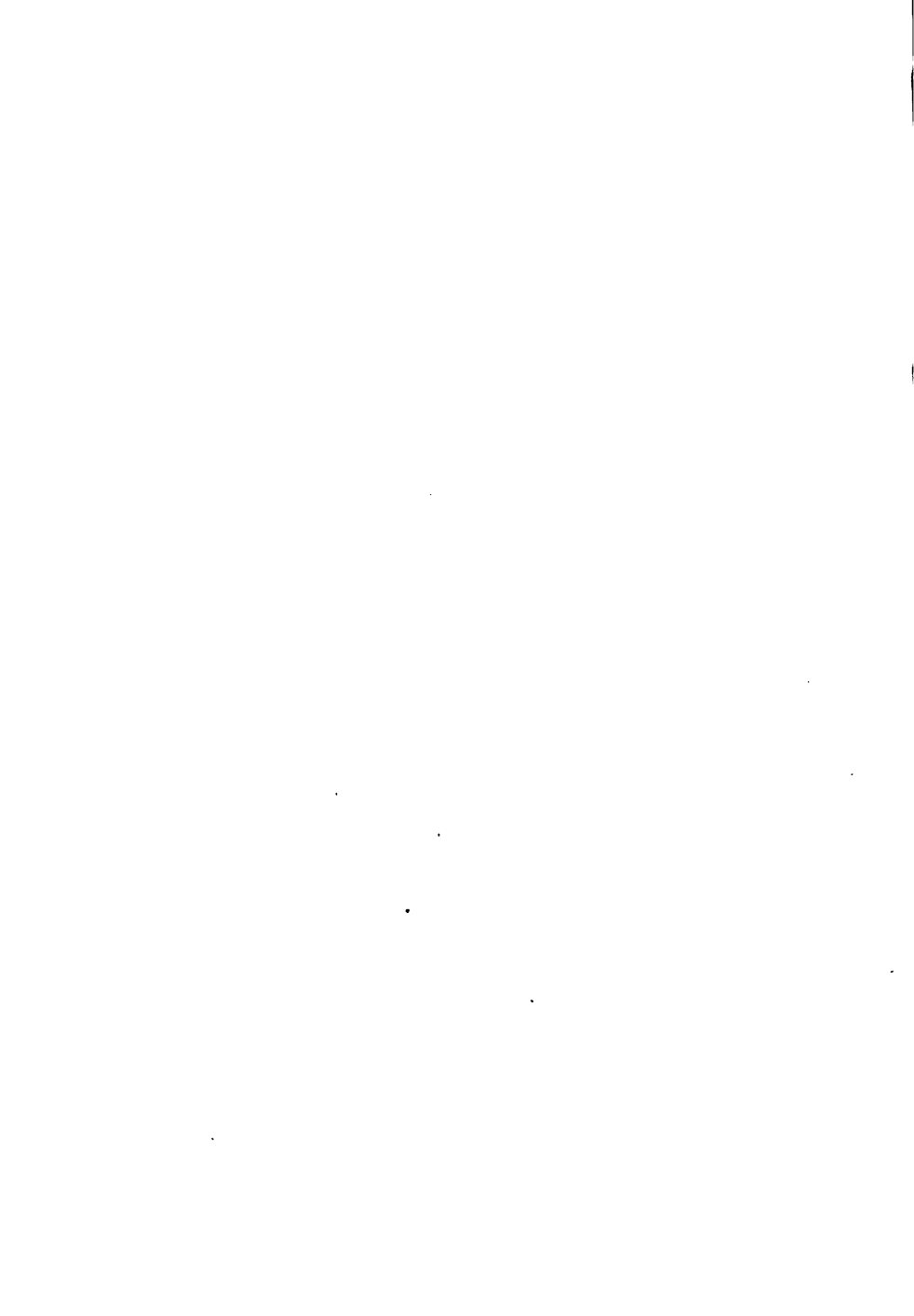
Post 22, G. A. R., of which General Draper was a member, was present, with kindred bodies. The Address was preceded by an invocation by Rev. J. C. Alvord, of Hopedale.



**WILLIAM F. DRAPER**

**APRIL 9, 1842**

**JANUARY 28, 1910**



## WILLIAM F. DRAPER

**F**ORTY-FIVE years have passed since the greatest civil war in the world's history was brought to a successful conclusion,—the Union was saved, the slaves freed, and the question whether this is a group of States or a nation was settled for all time. Millions of men were engaged in this great struggle, and when the Southern Confederacy collapsed, those in the service were mustered out and returned to their homes to resume their peaceful occupations. One year later these forces were once more organized into what since has been known as The Grand Army of the Republic. Not all the volunteers of the Civil War have joined this organization, but to succeeding generations it has represented those who were instru-

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mental in rushing to the defence of their country and saving it from dissolution. Each year those who took part in the Civil War, assisted by their sons and daughters and by other citizens, have engaged in a memorial service which has become a national holiday, and it is the holiday which has, not only to the participants in the war, but to other patriotic citizens, the greatest sentimental value. I am not going to dwell at this time on the subject of patriotism, or even on the deeds of those who served the republic so effectively a half century ago, only to remind you of its significance, and to suggest that it is the appropriate day on which to conduct special services in memory of one of Massachusetts' most gallant soldiers, who took part in the Civil War in his youth and early manhood, and who followed that service with many years of great usefulness. There is also a peculiar

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fitness that this service should be held in this town, as well as on this day, because in the midst of all the manifold duties of a busy life General Draper, while taking proper pride in his army service, not failing in his loyalty to those with whom he had fought the good fight, was never lacking in affection for this town or in his friendship for those living here with whom he had been associated. Practically speaking, he spent his entire life in this community. In his last sickness his mind constantly recurred to his life work here, and to the veterans, especially those of Company B, with whom he had seen long and distinguished military service; and one of his last thoughts was a memorial service of a character which would bring these friends together, which thought has been carried out in the erection of this monument by a devoted wife and loyal children.



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General Draper was one of my predecessors as a Representative from this Congressional District, he was my business associate in various affairs and was my personal friend, advising me in such political activities as I have undertaken since going to Congress. I considered him one of the wisest and soundest advisers in business and political affairs among the men with whom I have become associated. He might properly have been declared elected by the people of this District as Congressman emeritus, for, unlike most men who retire from active Congressional life, he continued a residence at the seat of Government, where it was my pleasure to see him frequently, and where he was always ready to confer with me in the many duties which Congressional life imposes; and, although permanently removed from personal political activities, he has been, during my service in Washington,

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of such assistance to me, and, indirectly, of such value to the Commonwealth, that I take this opportunity to express my great obligation to him, as well as my admiration for his distinguished career. I consider it a particular mark of his esteem that he should request, if such a service as this be undertaken, that I should deliver a brief address. This I gladly undertake to do, although I appreciate how little qualified I am to say those things which should be said of such a distinguished man, — words which will satisfy not only his family, but his multitude of friends, that a proper meed of justice has been done his memory. It is an old and often used expression that we should “speak naught but good of the dead,” but there is justice and reason in the phrase, for no one goes through life without doing some good, about whom much can be truthfully said which will furnish

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some kind of a lesson to those who come after, and speaking other than good of the dead would simply detract from their memory without furnishing any lesson of advantage to succeeding generations. Fortunately in this case so much of good can be said that the time which can properly be devoted to a service of this character is entirely inadequate to serve, even in a measurable degree, that purpose. I shall not eulogize to-day, but rather speak of him as I knew him, as I think you knew him and as he would be glad to have reference made to himself if he were to dictate the words which I shall use.

No sound conclusion regarding a man's life and work can be reached without going back to the foundations and investigating his lineage, determining from that the reasons for his accomplishments. There have been hundreds of successful New England men who have descended

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from the Puritans, and who, from comparatively poor surroundings and through trying conditions, have risen to places of high estimation and great usefulness in their communities. The Puritans were a vigorous, thrifty, self-contained, determined people, who came here to govern themselves, to till the soil, to develop industries, to raise and educate their children and to live as became a God-fearing people, but for more than one hundred and fifty years they lived in the midst of savage and frequently hostile races, so that they developed a military trait as well as other characteristics. As a result they and their children have been largely instrumental in fighting our wars, from the early Indian affairs down through the Colonial Wars, the Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and the great Civil conflict. Therefore, we find that many sons of the Puritan have not

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only been successful in their own professions or lines of business, but have taken part in some one of these conflicts. That is true of the Draper family, but to a greater extent than almost any man within my knowledge General Draper had been successful in an unusual number of the affairs of life. For three hundred years, in England and America, this family has been engaged in loom making and as manufacturers of cloth, and every generation since the first Puritan has furnished a representative in our volunteer military service. I do not recall any New England man who belonged to a family which has for so many years devoted its energies and talents to one general industrial occupation.

I do not place great reliance on the frequently repeated expression that the good old times were better than those in which we live. In fact, I disagree with the assertion, and believe that the times to-day

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are, from a material standpoint, better than they were a hundred or fifty years ago, that men are broader minded, that there is more religious, political and personal liberty than in the earlier periods, and that in every sense we have been advancing. There was one quality, however, which prevailed in our earlier history, quite as pronounced as, and I believe more fixed than, we find it to-day. I refer to the habit which the Puritans had of determining their course of action and abiding by it without regard to criticism or the popularity of their views. This was true in religious thought, in political principle and in industrial policies. General Draper, more almost than any man of my acquaintance, had inherited this characteristic, one which has apparently obtained in his family for many generations. He had positive views on most subjects which agitate the public mind,

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arriving at his views as the result either of study or practical experience, but when he had come to a conclusion he spoke his mind freely, and no criticism or other consideration affected him. Those who knew him will recognize this characteristic, and that, though tolerant of the opinions of others, he did not, in the slightest degree, modify his own opinions because a majority, or an apparent majority, happened to indicate their preference for something else. How different that condition is from the one with which we are so apt to be brought in contact in the present day. The average man seems to feel that positive views should not be expressed without first determining whether those views are likely to coincide with a majority. I believe this characteristic was the basis for General Draper's successes.

A brief reference to his ancestry will

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indicate how naturally he came to undertake and to excel in the many occupations and duties in which he engaged. The first Draper (James) to land in this country came in the early part of the seventeenth century — probably in the year 1647. He was the son of Thomas Draper, who carried on a business of weaving and fulling cloth at Heptonstall, Yorkshire, England. That he followed the same general occupation is proven by the fact that in the inventory of his estate is an item of “looms and tacklin,” he evidently having carried on a weaving business of, for that day, considerable magnitude. His son, James, erected a fulling mill in Dedham and became the first of the Draper family in this country to take up arms in its defence, he having been a soldier in the King Philip War. His son, James, located at Green Lodge, near Dedham, carried on a manufacturing business, and was also a



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soldier, being a Captain of the "trained bands" and taking part in the French and Indian Wars. His son Abijah served many years in the militia, where he rose to the rank of major and served in the Revolutionary War in the First Suffolk Regiment. His son Ira, the grandfather of General Draper, was also a soldier, taking part, although a mere boy, in the Revolutionary War and being also a manufacturer, in connection with which occupation he perfected many patents, some of which are still in use, which have demonstrated that he was one of the leading inventors of his day. Among his patents was the "revolving temple" for weaving, which is still manufactured in Hopedale. His son, George, born in 1817, was the father of General Draper, and was one of the important men of his day, although he did not hold public office. He was a man of strong character, of positive views,

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a developer of manufacturing interests and the adviser and friend of many men who have occupied positions of great responsibility in New England — especially of Governor John A. Andrew, he being a member of Governor Andrew's advisory board. Not only did George Draper inherit an inventive capacity, but he possessed unusual business qualifications, so he not only perfected his inventions, but manufactured and brought them into general use and profited materially as a result of his industry and genius. It is safe to say that the improvements and inventions given to the world by and through Ira Draper, George Draper and William F. Draper have doubled the capacity of manufacturing cloth and have saved hundreds of millions of dollars in machinery, power and labor. General Draper's mother was a Thwing, of English ancestry, whose family settled in Boston in 1635 and whose

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ancestors followed a similar course to that briefly referred to in the case of General Draper's forbears. They were business men, took part in the military campaigns whenever their services were required, and in many ways contributed to the development of the Colonies and to the best citizenship of their time. All of these elements in both families found ample exemplification in General Draper, and contributed, individually and collectively, in making him the unusually successful man which he became.

He was born in Lowell, Massachusetts, where his father was employed as an overseer of weaving for the Massachusetts Corporation, on the ninth day of April, 1842. Later his father removed to Woonsocket, Rhode Island, then to Ware, Massachusetts, and, when the son was eleven years old, to Hopedale, where he joined his brother in manufacturing and selling

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temples. During the years referred to General Draper attended the local schools and acquired such education as the limited facilities in those days and places provided. Taking everything into consideration, it seems to me that his youth and early manhood were employed in the manner best fitted to develop a citizen of this Republic, for while his father was not a poor man he believed it necessary for the son to work and acquire by actual experience a knowledge of those employments to which it was probable he would devote himself in after life. Therefore, in the year 1858, when he was sixteen years old, he became employed in the cotton mills of P. Whitin & Sons, at North Uxbridge, Massachusetts, but before that time he had studied mechanical drawing, had worked in the Hopedale machine shop, and thus had commenced a training which made him one of the best informed men

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in the manufacture of cloth which this country has produced. In these days, when we make strenuous appeals for shorter hours and more liberal terms of employment, we sometimes forget the splendid results which came from the methods followed in their youth and early manhood by General Draper and others who have succeeded. He has recorded that while at work in North Uxbridge he was employed more than thirteen hours a day, and that his pay was two dollars and a half a week, two dollars and a quarter of which paid his board and other necessary expenses. After obtaining such benefits as he could by serving in various capacities in the North Uxbridge mills, he went, the following year, to Wauregan, Connecticut. At this place he worked seventy-two hours a week at the rate of four dollars. The following year he went to Biddeford, Maine, where he was em-

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ployed by the Saco Water Power Company — one of the most complete mills of that period — for the purpose of perfecting himself in drafting and other similar work. This was the year of Mr. Lincoln's first election to the Presidency, and for the first time General Draper took an active part in affairs relating to the public service. He joined the "Wide-Awakes," companies of men organized for the purpose of promoting Mr. Lincoln's election, receiving in this company his first military instruction and developing a fondness for that service. He also joined a fire company and "ran with the machine," following along similar lines, as will be seen, to those followed by thousands of young men born and reared in country districts. In the Spring of 1861 he removed to Lawrence, Massachusetts, and was employed in installing looms for the Everett Mills. It was while in this

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service that Fort Sumter was fired on, and for this reason he returned to Hopedale for the purpose of enlisting. There is no better illustration, I think, of the wisdom of his father than the advice he at that time gave the son, to this effect: that there was no lack of men offering themselves for the service, that his son's education was not finished and that his life work would be greatly interfered with if he did not complete his education and preparation for his vocation, but that if the time came when there were not sufficient men offering themselves for necessary service he would not only give his consent but would urge him to enlist. Satisfied with this conclusion General Draper made preparations to enter Harvard College, for which he was practically fitted. He was now nineteen years of age, had been employed for three years in almost every capacity in the best manu-

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facturing companies of that time, had become thoroughly qualified to install and take charge of machinery and had obtained sufficient education to enable him to enter college. While the college preparation of that day was much less exacting than at the present time, it is worth while for young men to consider that, notwithstanding the somewhat strenuous labors in which he had been engaged, he had fitted himself for college at an age not very much, if any, greater than the average age at which our youth now enter similar institutions. After the defeat at the battle of Bull Run, and the call for additional troops which was made by the President, George Draper gave his consent to his son's enlistment, probably being especially moved to do this as he was at that time personally engaged in fitting out troops, and because a company was to be enlisted in Milford and that immedi-



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ate neighborhood. This company became Company B of the 25th Massachusetts Regiment, one of the best regiments which Massachusetts sent to the front, and although General Draper did not continue his service with this Company or Regiment after the Burnside Expedition, he always gave his first military allegiance to Company B; a multitude of other associations did not lessen his loyalty to this organization, and no duty or interest prevented his attending the annual reunion of the surviving members of that good Company.

In those early days of the War company officers were elected, and General Draper was elected Second Lieutenant of his Company. It is impracticable at this time to go into a detailed account of his military service, but it would be an unwarranted omission if a record were not made of the variety and arduous character

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of this service, as well as to make note of his adaptability to it and success in it. The first active employment of his Regiment was in what was known as the Burnside Expedition, which had for its ultimate object the capture of Roanoke Island, Fort Macon and New Berne, North Carolina. The forces for this expedition rendezvoused at Annapolis, Maryland, and while there General Draper was detailed for the signal service. Later, while serving in this capacity, he was attached to the staff of General Ambrose E. Burnside, the Commander of the North Carolina expedition. His detail to the signal service was considered a special distinction. In a sense that was true, for in many respects such detached service is preferable to duty with the line, but it does not ordinarily satisfy the man who wishes most active service and does not usually offer the opportunities for advancement which

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one may get if he is serving with troops. He remained with the signal service until after the capture of Roanoke Island and New Berne. In the capture of the latter place he was with his Regiment, and, although he was not serving with troops he took an active part in the assault. On the fifteenth of April, 1862, he returned to his Regiment, having been promoted to a First Lieutenancy. During this service, which continued until August, he was offered, but declined, a Majority in the First North Carolina Regiment, which was then being recruited. At about this time, however, a call for three hundred thousand additional men was made by the President. These new troops were largely officered by those who had already had experience in the field, and appointments having displaced elections in providing officers for troops he was selected to command a Company in the 36th

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Massachusetts Regiment and was commissioned August 12. September 4, he was ordered by the War Department to report to his Regiment which was encamped at Worcester, Massachusetts. Arriving at Worcester he found the Regiment had left for the front and was already in Maryland, so he took advantage of his presence in the State to visit his family. He had become engaged, by correspondence during his army service, to Miss Lydia Joy, and it was decided that they should be married before his return to the front, excuse being made, if any were needed, that it would enable his wife to go to and care for him in case he became wounded or incapacitated. The next day after his marriage he started to join his Regiment, which he found near Antietam, Maryland, where it had arrived too late to take part in that bloody battle.

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This Regiment served during the remainder of the War, and the effect of this service on the personnel easily indicates its arduous character. Of the thirty company officers originally connected with it, twenty-two were either killed or wounded before the end of the War, and several resigned before they had seen any considerable service. The Regiment went into the Wilderness campaign May 6, 1864, with four hundred and ninety six men of whom one hundred and forty-five were previously connected with other regiments. Of these eighty-seven were killed, one hundred and eighty-nine wounded and forty-three missing within the next year, making a total of three hundred and nineteen out of three hundred and fifty one. Of the officers who went into the Wilderness campaign, fourteen in number, thirteen were either killed or wounded during the same period. As first a Com-

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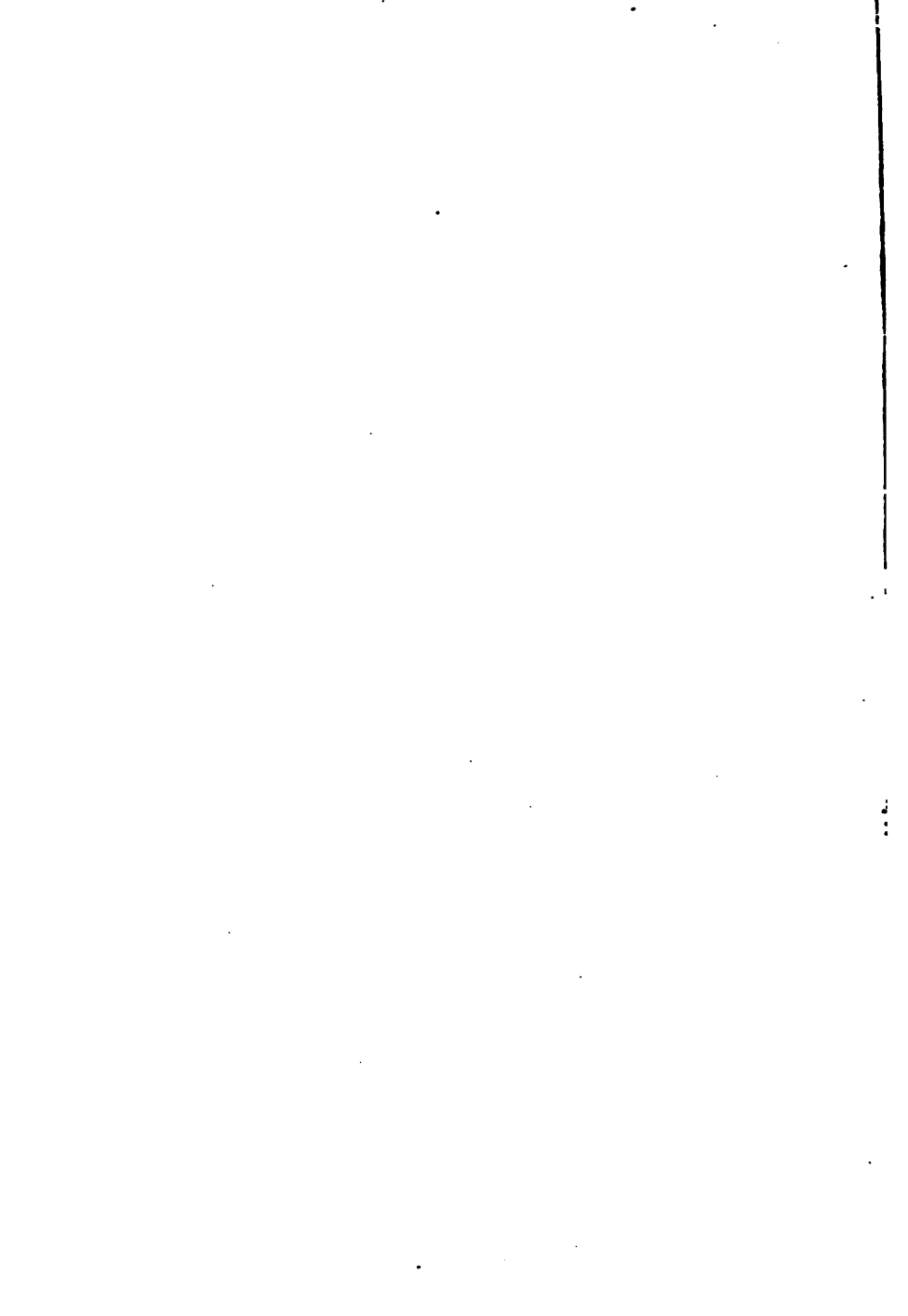
pany officer, and later a field officer, General Draper completed his military service with this regiment, except when temporarily in command of a Brigade. During this time he was offered a position on the staff of General Wilcox of the 9th Corps, was twice slightly and once dangerously wounded; this latter wound, which occurred May 6, 1864, in the battle of the Wilderness, incapacitated him for service for more than two months. No better description of the trying ordeals endured by our soldiers in the Civil War can be found than in the account which General Draper gives of his own experience in the battle of the Wilderness, and the frightful torture which he underwent after receiving his wound and during his transportation to Washington. If there are those in our community who have not a sufficiently clear realization of this service, and who do not appreciate what our

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veterans suffered in their behalf, they should at least take time to read this incident. Briefly, the 36th Regiment, which was attached to the Ninth Corps, took part in the battle of Fredericksburg, the siege of Vicksburg, the Knoxville campaign, which ended in the siege of Knoxville, and in service with the Army of the Potomac from early in May, 1864, until the end of the War. General Draper commanded Company F until August 2, 1863, when he was promoted to a Majority; during the Knoxville campaign, the commanding officer of his Regiment having been seriously wounded, he came to its command and continued its commanding officer during the remainder of his service, although he was never commissioned a full Colonel as the regiment did not have on its rolls sufficient men to warrant that commission under the regulations which obtained at that time. He







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was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel in April, 1864, receiving his commission May 6, the second day of the battle of the Wilderness, the day he received his serious wound which took him from his command until August 9 of the same year, after which the Regiment, while under his command, took part in the siege of Petersburg and the engagements on and near the Weldon Railroad during August and September. At this time the Regiment had become greatly decimated, and it being the policy to recruit new full regiments rather than to fill up old ones, the Government decided to offer an honorable discharge to the officers of old regiments who had served three years or more. General Draper was in this class and decided, although he afterwards regretted it, that he would take his discharge. He was, therefore, mustered out October 12, 1864, and brevetted Colonel and Briga-

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dier-General for his service during the War.

Returning from the War he was given employment by his father and uncle, and continued for the next three years as an employee of the Draper Company, working at a modest salary, even for those days. Evidently his father did not have high anticipations of the development of his business, for in 1867 he advised his son, who was then receiving fifteen hundred dollars a year, to seek employment elsewhere, as it did not seem likely that the Draper Company could ever do any better by him than was being done at that time. At about this time, however, his uncle decided to sell his interest in the business and devote his attention to other matters with which he had some connection, the result being a purchase of this interest by George Draper for William's benefit.

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It is recorded that the father was canny enough to make a reasonable profit for himself, quite likely arguing that, as he must advance the money or credit to make the purchase, it was only right that the transaction should be placed on a business basis, without regard to relationship.

The succeeding twenty-five years were devoted to business, and the wonderful development of the Draper Company was its result. In 1887 George Draper died, leaving William the senior member of the Company, and ten years later he became its President, when the business took a corporation form, continuing in that position until his retirement from active business ten years later. In 1887, when General Draper's oldest son was taken into the firm, he received a letter from his grandfather, George Draper, congratulating him on his promotion and using a phrase which not

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only applied to the business of the Draper Company up to that time, but is as applicable to-day as then. He said: "The foundations of our business were laid in truth, integrity, industry, temperance, prudence and constant attention to business."

Although General Draper had been active in local affairs, he had never held political office of importance, or had been a candidate for office, until 1892, when he received the Republican nomination for Congress in the old Eleventh District. This District had been carried in the previous election by Honorable George Fred Williams of Dedham, after a campaign which resulted in the election of six Democrats from Massachusetts to the National House. Mr. Williams, in point of ability and experience, was a leader among these Democrats and immediately took an important place in the House, therefore a nomination, although

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the District was naturally Republican, did not by any means guarantee an election. The result was a hard fought contest in which General Draper won by a vote of 16,961 to 14,404. Although he had not been on the stump before, he had had a long experience in the Courts in connection with patent litigation, was thoroughly acquainted with Court procedure, had frequently prepared arguments on industrial subjects, and he very soon developed an aptitude for public speaking which stood him in good stead not only in this campaign, but in Congress and in his after life.

In his first Congress he was placed on the Committee on Patents and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the former because of his well-known knowledge of this subject. A position on the latter Committee is always much esteemed, as it brings one into relations with those who

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represent foreign governments in Washington, and always treats of questions of importance and much general interest. Service on this Committee was an excellent preparation for the position which General Draper was later to assume. The care with which he performed his Congressional duties was indicative of the well-trained business man which he was. No duty of the smallest importance was neglected and he quickly showed himself competent to take part in the consideration of the most important subjects and discussions with credit to himself and his District. His first service was to take part in an extra session of Congress, called to repeal the silver purchasing clause in the Sherman Act. On his return to Massachusetts from this session of Congress, at a meeting of his District Committee, he stated, among other things, "every letter that I have received from

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any constituent has been duly answered, and every reasonable request has been complied with." It hardly seems necessary to commend a man for such action, but I am satisfied that a complaint would stand against many Congressmen for not complying with reasonable requests or giving personal attention to correspondence, and that, too, against men whose time is not confined to the broader duties imposed in Congressional life. During his first Congress, while he did not intend to take part in discussions for the sake of discussion, and did not, I believe, during his career, except on the tariff, print his speeches for distribution, he engaged in the discussion of two or three matters of considerable importance, and he very soon indicated that although elected as a Republican, looked on as an extreme protectionist and having little sympathy with the position of the Democratic Party on



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that and many other questions, yet he was broad enough to break away from party associations in matters which did not involve party principles and assume a position which at once testified to his breadth of character and vision, as, for instance, when speaking<sup>1</sup> on the Chinese Exclusion Bill he said, "I consider it as much my duty as a Republican Member of Congress to support a Democratic administration when I believe it to be right as I do to oppose it when I believe it to be wrong." He emphasized this position when a resolution was introduced by one of his colleagues from Massachusetts and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, of which he was the second member, and, at the time, Acting Chairman, condemning our Ambassador at the Court of St. James, Honorable Thomas F. Bayard, for words used in a public speech which criticized the protective policy of

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this country, saying that although he deprecated the words used by Mr. Bayard, and believed that it was unwise for a foreign representative of the United States to criticize any policy of his government, yet he did not believe that the usefulness of that representative to perform good service should be lessened, or perhaps destroyed, by the passing of resolutions of censure by the National Congress — certainly a broad and sound position, and especially so when the circumstances are considered. Before the end of his first term in the House General Draper was unanimously renominated and re-elected by a plurality of 7449, very nearly three times the plurality given him in his first election. This indicated that the opposition was not active, probably for the reason that his opponents believed he had greatly strengthened himself in the District, and there is no doubt that the large increase

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in his vote reflected the great satisfaction which the people of his District and the Commonwealth had felt in his service. His most prominent work in Congress, the work in which he excelled, related to industrial questions, and especially to the tariff bill which was passed during his first Congress. He took an active part in the preparation of the bill and its discussion, although not a member of the Ways and Means Committee. It is fair to say that in this and his second Congress no Member engaged in a more intelligent discussion of industrial questions than he. His speech pointing out the comparative profits made in different industries was most illuminating and showed a thorough knowledge of business questions and an amount of research which was most unusual, even in the discussion of such matters. During his second Congress he continued on the same Committees as in

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his first Congress, reporting out from the Committee on Patents three bills, all of considerable importance, and all of which became laws the last day of his Congressional service. I have been particularly struck with several questions outside of his Committee work which General Draper discussed, and his broad knowledge of matters to which he had not, previous to his Congressional service, given material study. One of these was the Hawaiian question, which came up during Mr. Cleveland's second administration. He took the position that we should take control of Hawaii in some permanent form, speaking most intelligently on this subject. Every Naval man knows that under present conditions, sail power having been eliminated, it is absolutely essential that we have bases for coaling and other supplies. If we have not such it will be impossible for us to keep our fleets at sea.

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Every European country has established suitable bases in sections where they have coast to protect, and, since I became a Member of the House, Congress has recognized this necessity by making liberal provisions for the building of a Naval station at Pearl harbor, near Honolulu, and the development of fortifications protecting that harbor. As far as I know, however, General Draper was the first man to call to the attention of Congress the suggestion that we acquire and maintain such a base for the protection of the Pacific coast, and especially for the protection of an Isthmian Canal, which was then being discussed. He used this language, — "With adequate fortifications on these Islands, and a suitable Naval force on the Pacific, our coast would be far more secure in time of war than it could be made by any expenditures for harbor defences on the mainland alone." As

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General Draper has frequently said, he did not make any attempt to be consistent in his public career, for within a few years he was opposing the permanent occupation of the Philippines, and for what seems to me substantial reasons. In fact, there was no comparison between the desirability of maintaining a base for the operation of our fleets, to protect our own coast, and a base in a section of the world where we have no coast or possessions to protect.

Although there was a very general desire among his constituents that he should continue his Congressional service, he decided to retire and devote himself to his business affairs at the end of his second term. Very few public men leaving the service have received greater praise for their work, and almost without exception the press commented on his accomplishments and regretted his decision.

April 5, 1897, he was selected as the

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Massachusetts man who should be given a first class foreign appointment. At that time we had but four Ambassadors in Europe, and he was given, not the most important, but certainly as agreeable a diplomatic appointment as the President had at his disposal — that to Italy. General Draper remained in this position for nearly four years and performed all of its duties greatly to the satisfaction of the administration and his friends at home, not only conducting the ordinary functions which come to a public official, but during all of his public service in Washington and abroad he dispensed a generous hospitality which added greatly, in my judgment, to the effectiveness of his service. Unthinking people are apt to criticize such social courtesies as this description implies, but they very often soften animosities which might otherwise exist, and serve to extend an acquaintance

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which must naturally be of advantage to a public servant at home as well as abroad. After General Draper returned from his foreign service, from which he resigned in 1900, he was given by the present King of Italy the Grand Cordon of St. Maurice and Lazare.

After his return from Italy he held no political office, but his interest in public affairs never flagged, and as a private citizen he did much to promote those party principles in which he was interested, as well as to devote much valuable time to the affairs of the Draper Company and the other business and personal matters in which he had an interest, to traveling and to writing his autobiography. An indication of the high value placed on his advice is illustrated by the number of his directorships and the diversified interests which they represent. A partial list follows.

First National Bank of Boston, Milford National Bank, City Trust Company,



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Arlington Mills, Manomet Mills, Non-quitt Spinning Company, Nashawena Mills, King Philip Mills, Chadwick-Hoskins Company, Milford Shoe Company, Milford Water Company, Queen City Cotton Company, etc.

Mrs. Draper, Lydia Joy, died in 1884, leaving five children, four boys and one girl, and on May 22, 1890, General Draper, having been a widower for six years, married Miss Susan Preston, daughter of General William Preston, one of the most distinguished citizens of the State of Kentucky. General Preston was allied, by relationship or marriage, with very many of the old families of the South, and he himself had had a distinguished career in the law, in diplomacy and as a soldier in the Confederate service. Mrs. Draper's mother was a Wickliffe, another of Kentucky's most distinguished families, her great-uncle having been a Governor and

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a member of the Cabinet, and her grandfather a leading lawyer and United States Circuit Judge. This marriage was one of the many social acts which have assisted in bringing about a reunited sentiment in this country, for it brought in personal relationship many of the distinguished men of the South, some of whom were in the Southern service, and a man who had taken a leading part in the Union Army, and who, with his associates, was such a commanding figure in our northern industrial life. Since General Draper's second marriage he has made frequent visits to Kentucky and the South, where he was received with many courtesies, and, therefore, I have no doubt that this union has been a material element in connecting and cementing the relations between the two sections of the country. By this marriage General Draper left one daughter, Margaret Preston Draper.

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Massachusetts sent to the front no braver and very few more successful soldiers than General Draper, although he was little more than a boy when brevetted with the single star. While I have not the statistics available to make comparisons, it is safe to say that he was one of the most successful inventors developed in Massachusetts within the last century, and, as in the case of his father, what is somewhat unusual, he possessed, in addition to his inventive genius, organizing and administrative qualities of the very highest order, so that he became a great manufacturer of machinery and a far-seeing and wise adviser in the development of the cotton manufacturing industry. When all is said, his best and greatest monument is here in this village of Hopedale, in the manufacturing plant which bears his name. It represents an organization created and built up within fifty years, which employs

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under the best conditions three thousand men and furnishes homes and happy surroundings for many times that number. His success, however, did not stop with a military career of which any man might be proud, or an industrial success which has accomplished the result to which I have referred, and which made the promoter of this community one of the wealthy men of his State, but it extended to other fields. He was as successful in political life as in other affairs. While he served but two terms in Congress, it can be said without exaggeration that his service was of the first importance to this Commonwealth and to his immediate constituents, making him one of the marked men in official life at the National Capital at that time. This service was succeeded by a foreign mission at a proud Court, where he conducted the delicate and intricate relations which came to him

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in a manner to meet the highest praise. His activities, however, did not stop with these successes. He was one of the best French scholars in this Commonwealth, and he had a good knowledge of other languages. His public addresses indicated a high order of forensic ability and the recollections which he wrote of his varied career had similar characteristics to those which made the autobiography of General Grant so justly esteemed, emphasized particularly by simplicity and grace of expression, making the book readable even to those who had no personal interest in his life or activities. He was one of the sturdiest advocates of the policy of protection. His faith in it came as the result of early training and surroundings, fortified by an experience which left no doubt in his mind as to the desirability of maintaining and perpetuating that principle in our political affairs. Even in his

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last days, when many of those who have always been its firmest friends were inclined to qualify the idea with adjectives, and although it has been at times an unpopular issue, he did not vary one hair's breadth in his devotion to it or in his belief that any variance from it would bring misfortune to the country. He was President of the Home Market Club in 1890, and, as it represented his tariff views more nearly than any other organization, he continued an active member during his life. Neither did his political views need any explanation or qualification. He believed thoroughly in his political party, in sound and sane methods of government, and was always ready to express himself along those lines. No man was more opposed than he to changing policies at the instance of irresponsible persons who had a theory that a change might bring better results. He knew from his experience, and

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invariably advocated his views, that a policy could not be good unless it were given a thorough test, and that legislation must be given ample opportunity to justify itself or the results would mean chaos. While he was essentially a business man, and one of the best with whom I have ever been brought in contact, he thoroughly believed that, as a business agency, the government was not an economical or wise one, and that this government should be run as a government rather than as a business institution.

After the War he joined the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion, remaining an active member of those organizations as long as he lived, his devotion to them being among his first interests. He became Commander of the Loyal Legion, and I have already spoken of his interest in the Grand Army

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Post with which he was associated. He was a Unitarian in religion and took an active part in the duties of that church, not only in a broad sense, but in the details which go to make up church life, serving for eleven years as Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Unitarian Church at Hopedale.

General Draper had an inflexible will and a dominating power, founded on native force and supplemented by knowledge. Against such a man opposition has little or no effect unless that opposition is based on sound reasons, which he always recognized, and to which he was willing to listen. "Captain of industry" is a modern coined phrase, intended to describe the strong, masterful man who accomplishes results. General Draper was such a man. His great capacity in industrial affairs was recognized by all those who came in contact with him, whether his associates or



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employees. One of the latter said to me some years ago, — “When I came here I took off my hat to General Draper because he was the President of the Company which employed me. Soon however, I changed my motive, and took off my hat to him because I found that he was eminently fitted to be its President.” Young men, in fact, all men, of this community cannot better honor him than by adopting the inspiration taught by his life and his life’s work, his patriotic devotion to his country in time of war and peace, his thorough knowledge of those employments in which he was concerned, enabling him to make the best use of every opportunity, benefiting thereby not only himself but, in a larger sense, this whole community, because, with all of these great qualities, he was at the same time a kind and thoughtful neighbor, an affectionate friend and devoted to those nearest and dearest to him.

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I talked with General Draper shortly before his end, when the shadow was evidently gathering. In that situation which we must all face he furnished an example worthy of emulation. He did not deceive himself about his serious illness any more than he had in the undertakings with which he had been connected. He had arranged his earthly affairs, his mind was untroubled and he met the end with the fortitude, the calmness and the resignation of a Christian gentleman. Those nearest to him have, in tender memory, erected this monument. May the bronze serve to remind not only the present generation, but all future generations, that there lived and built in this town a man whose career should be studied and, as far as possible, followed by all men, who love Massachusetts, and wish to perpetuate those conditions which have made her great.













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